

In response to the Final Official Action dated October 15, 1998, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims

1. (Twice Amended) A solenoid stator assembly adapted to be mounted upon a mounting seat of a fuel injector valve, comprising:

an insulative housing having an upper end, a lower end, and a base adapted to fit on the mounting seat of the fuel injector valve, a recess is disposed in the lower end of the insulative housing circumferentially therearound generally adjacent the base;

a substantially E-shaped stator core disposed within the insulative housing, said stator core including

a top portion having a first end in-line with a second end,

a first outer pole piece depending generally perpendicularly from said first end,

a second outer pole piece depending generally perpendicularly from said second end, and

a central pole piece depending generally perpendicularly from a region of the top portion located substantially central to the first and second outer pole pieces and in a direction substantially parallel to that of the first and second outer pole pieces, the first and second outer pole pieces and the central pole piece each having a distal end forming a face, each face being substantially flush with the base of the housing; and

13

a reinforcement band circumferentially disposed in the recess [about the lower end of the insulative housing];

3/1 Cnd. said insulative housing being molded to said stator core and enveloping the stator assembly except for the faces of the first and second outer pole pieces and of the central pole piece, said lower end of the insulative housing being reinforced by said reinforcement band against expanding cavity pressure developed within the assembly by fuel pressure within the fuel injector valve.

Please cancel claim 5.

Claim 6, page 10, line 23, delete "adapted" and insert -- operative -- therefore.

Remarks

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. Claims 1-2, 4 and 6 remain in this application. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Pham ('063). The Examiner indicates that Pham discloses all of the limitations set forth in Applicants' claims 1-4. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. The reinforcement member 9 of Pham is not a 'band'. The member 9 clearly enclosed the stator from the base to the top. In fact, the member 9 is used as a mold to form the insulative plastic 40. However, in order to more clearly set forth the structure of the subject invention, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include a recess defined in the insulative

14